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Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 AS-01 SCCT-01

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R 210855Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4549
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP MR
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON ADAR CORP. FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. STATE 204229 (NOTAL); B. NOUAKCHOTT 1928 (NOTAL)

1. FIVE-MEMBER TEAM REPRESENTING ADAR CORP. FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARRIVED IN NOUAKCHOTT OCTOBER 11 FOR TEN-DAY VISIT. TWO MEMBERS OF GROUP, WALID A. SAID (MANAGING DIRECTOR WHOSE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 205 C GEFINOR CENTER IN BEIRUT) AND ARMOND J. HABIBY (VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL WHOSE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 233 EAST LANCASTER AVE. IN ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA), CALLED AT EMBASSY OCTOBER 17. IN COURSE OF LENGTHY SESSION, THEY CONFIRMED INFORMATION REPORTED IN REF B. HABIBY IS ("WALL STREET") LAWYER BY BACKGROUND AND SAID WORKED FOR TEN YEARS AS ECONOMIC ADVISER WITH KUWAIT FUND. THREE REMAINING MEMBERS OF GROUP SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED AT EMBASSY OCTOBER 20. THEY ARE GEORGE A. DOUMANI, MANPOWER SPECIALIST, LOCATED AT 1156 15TH ST., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.; SHAIBAN A. AWNI, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, OFFICE ADDRESS 10960 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 2100, LOS ANGELES; AND MONEM ABDEL-GAWAD, GEOLOGIST, WHO WORKS OUT OF WASHINGTON OFFICE. DOUMANI WAS BORN IN LEBANON, AWNI IN IRAQ, AND ABDEL-GAWAD IN EGYPT. LATTER
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HAS PHD IN GEOLOGY FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

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A. SAID AND HABIBY SAID ADAR WAS CREATED IN 1971 IN RESPONSE TO CALL FROM ARAB COUNTRIES FOR PERSONS OF ARAB EXTRACTION LIVING OVERSEAS TO PUT THEIR SPECIAL SKILLS TO WORK IN ARAB WORLD. ADAR HAS EIGHT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES. IT OBTAINS REQUIRED SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE BY DRAWING ON LIST OF SOME 500 AMERICANS OF ARAB ORIGIN TO ASSEMBLY TEAM FOR PARTICULAR PROJECT. SERVICES OF SPECIALISTS ARE USUALLY OBTAINED ON SHORT-TERM BASIS FOR PERIODS RANGING FROM SEVERAL WEEKS TO YEAR OR MORE. DEPENDING ON STUDY TEAM REQUIREMENT, SPECIALISTS TAKE SABBATICAL OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM REGULAR EMPLOYMENT, WORK FOR ADAR DURING REGULAR VACATIONS, OR "MOONLIGHT". ADAR'S CORPORATE HEAD OFFICE IS LOCATED IN BEIRUT. OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT IS BASED AT OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND MAJOR BRANCH OFFICE DEALING WITH COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IS LOCATED IN LOS ANGELES. ADAR WORKS EXCLUSIVELY IN ARAB WORLD.

3. ADAR IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PREPARING STUDIES IN FIELDS OF TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINING, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND INFORMATION. STUDIES ARE FREQUENTLY CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH FINANCING FROM WEALTHIER ARAB COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY KUWAIT. ADAR OPERATES UNDER FOLLOWING PHILOSOPHY: (A) MAINTAIN SMALL PERMANENT STAFF BUT DRAW FROM LARGE POOL OF ARAB-AMERICAN TALENT; (B) EXPLOITATION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE CAPABILITY (NEARLY ALL PERSONS ON LIST SPEAK ARABIC); AND (C) WORK CLOSELY WITH HOST COUNTRY TO EXTENT OF ACTIVELY INVOLVING HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS IN KEY ASPECTS OF STUDY. ADAR STRESSES LATTER POINT, AND CONSIDERS IT CRUCIAL TO ULTIMATE UTILIZATION OF STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS. HABIBY STATED THAT ADAR WAS LAUNCHED IN EARLY 1972 WITH ONE MILLION STUDY CONTRACT WITH KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT FUND. ADAR SUBSEQUENTLY CARRIED OUT LARGE SCALE INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY FOR SUDAN. THIRTY-SIX ARAB-AMERICANS WORKED FOR OVER YEAR IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SUDANESE COUNTERPARTS.

4. ADAR OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT FIRST STAGE OF $460,000 MINING SECTOR STUDY IN MAURITANIA BEGINS WITH PRESENT VISIT BY FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION. ADAR EXPECTS TO SHUFFLE EXPERTS
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IN AND OUT OF MAURITANIA UNTIL PROJECT IS FINISHED. IT WILL PROBABLY NOT, THERFORE, BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH ADAR OFFICE IN COUNTRY. ADAR IS ALREADY TRYING TO GET MAURITANIAN COUNTERPARTS NAMED TO STUDY SO THAT SOMEONE WILL BE LEFT BEHIND TO HELP IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. COMMENT: ADAR GROUP HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE,

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FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN OFFICIAL MAURITANIAN PRESS. ONLY
REFERENCE IN PRESS TO AMERICAN TIES OF GROUP, HOWEVER, WAS COM-
MENT THAT ADRA HAS OFFICES IN WASHINGTON AND LOS ANGELES.
EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY ALL
FIVE MEMBERS OF DELEGATION.HANDYSIDE

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